

Taxicab Drivers and MPD Enforcement of the District's Taxicab Regulations

(Last Updated – March 2011)

Recommendation	Status
DCTC should review for accuracy and clarity rules and regulations governing taxicab drivers, particularly those that address issues raised in this report, and make such revisions as are necessary to promote understanding and compliance.	Pending. DCTC reports that it is working with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to update its regulations and that several chapters are undergoing review for legal sufficiency by the OAG and policy review by the Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Analysis.
DCTC should consider making available translations of important rules and regulations in the non-English languages most commonly spoken by taxicab drivers.	Not adopted. DCTC states that it does not have funding to implement this recommendation.
DCTC and UDC should assess the current UDC taxicab pre-license training course and work together to incorporate relevant provisions of Title 31 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations into the course content. Efforts should also be made to include a significant number of questions from Title 31 in the UDC simulated final examination.	Pending. DCTC states that the driver training class, the refresher class, and licensure examination are currently not being offered. DCTC has requested that the training and refresher courses no longer be provided by UDC, but instead by the new Community College of the District Columbia (CCDC). DCTC reports meeting with the administration of CCDC and is assembling a working group to review the entire curriculum, with an eye towards complete revision.
DCTC and UDC should recruit interested MPD officers and DCTC hack inspectors to serve as instructors or guest presenters.	Pending. DCTC states the potential revisions to the curriculum described above could include MPD officers, and that DCTC will recommend that the working group include an MPD representative.
DCTC should require taxicab drivers to attend annual refresher training that centers on Title 31 of the taxicab regulations and applicable District law.	Pending. DCTC states that it will consider this recommendation when it conducts the review described above, noting, "Title 31 has always been and will remain a part of the training."
MPD and DCTC should establish regular joint training sessions for hack inspectors and MPD officers.	Not adopted. MPD states that, although it provides training to hack inspectors, regular joint training sessions are not currently planned, as training of MPD officers is far more extensive than that what is provided to hack inspectors. DCTC agrees with MPD's position, but states that incorporating MPD skills sets into CCDC training would be beneficial.
MPD should review and update its current training materials and general orders, offer annual in-service training on taxicab enforcement to all MPD officers, and continue to provide roll-call training to inform officers of important changes in taxicab rules and regulations.	Adopted. MPD states that it has worked to clarify any confusion on the part of officers by providing updates through its teletype system, as well as training during roll call. All corrections and clarifications will be incorporated into the recruit and professional development training programs and in MPD directives.

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<p>Both MPD and DCTC should review taxicab citations issued by their respective agencies and seek to identify any problematic patterns or trends. To address concerns about discriminatory enforcement, MPD and DCTC should develop a system to review individual citations in order to spot outliers, <i>i.e.</i> officers or inspectors whose citation issue rates are higher than average. This can be accomplished by noting which infraction specified in D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 31 § 825 was incurred, which officer or inspector issued the citation, and any identifying information about the taxicab driver available from the citation. MPD and DCTC could coordinate to connect driver's license and vehicle ID numbers to specific individuals.</p>	<p>Adopted in part. MPD states that it will review citations pertaining to taxicab violations in order to discern any potential patterns or trends. An MPD representative of the agency's Homeland Security Bureau, which oversees the Traffic Safety and Specialized Enforcement Branch, will meet with a DCTC representative on a quarterly basis to review enforcement efforts and identify and address any existing or potential issues. DCTC states, however, that the volume of complaints received and investigated by PCB would not justify the cost of adopting the recommendation.</p>